

claimed action of "performing, on a test substrate, a process test . . ." clearly understandable.

In addition, claim 6 has now been made properly dependent on claim 5, addressing the noted typographical error. Other minor errors have also been corrected. These corrections are self-explanatory. The claims should now each be allowable over Section 112.

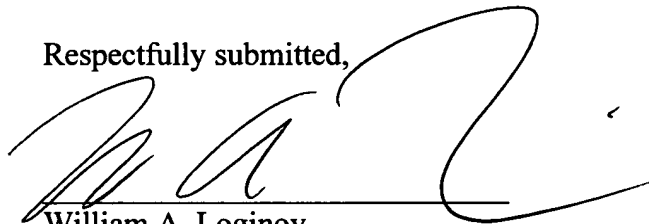
Claim 9 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Harafuji et al. This claim has been cancelled. Accordingly any rejection thereto is now rendered moot.

The examiner has indicated that claims 1-8 and 10-29 are otherwise allowable. Therefore the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests the examiner to issue a Notice of Allowance at the earliest possible date.

Applicant earnestly solicits the examiner to contact the undersigned by telephone call to advance the prosecution in any respect.

Please charge any additional fee occasioned by this paper to our Deposit Account No. 03-1237.

Respectfully submitted,



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